10/2/60

THIS MORNING WE ARE CELEBRATING ONE OF THE ESTABLISHED SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST. THE LORD'S SUPPER OR HOLY COMMUNION. IN ORDER THAT WE MIGHT BETTER UNDERSTAND HIM AND THAT ULTIMATELY WE MIGHT PERFECT OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, JESUS CHRIST INSTITUTED THE SIMPLEST MEAL IMAGINABLE, BREAD AND WINE. HE, HIMSELF, INSTRUCTED US TO USE IT AS A REMEMBRANCE OF HIM, AS OFTEN AS WE PARTAKE OF THE ELEMENTS HE USED, TO RECALL HIS LIFE, HIS PASSION, DEATH AND RESSURRECTION.

WE MUST BE CAREFUL NOT TO INSERT UNINTENDED MEANING IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION, FOR AS IS SO OBVIOUS ON THE OCCASION OF CHRIST'S BREAKING BREAD WITH HIS DISCIPLES THE VERY ESSENCE OF THE SACRAMENT IS COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON THE SPIRIT OF THE MOMENT. ALTHOUGH WE CALL THE SACRAMENTS " MEANS OF GRACE" WE CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO IMPLY THAT A MECHANICAL REACTION TAKES PLACE. THINKING THAT WE ARE AUTOMATICALLY EN= RICHED UPON "TAKING COMMUNION" BECAUSE OF SOME SUPER NATURAL MAGIC IS A GRAVE ERROR. IF THE LORD'S SUPPER IS TO HAVE ANY MEANING AT ALL WE MUST APPROACH IT IN A STATE OF PENETENCE AND REVERANT REMEMBRANCE.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION, WHEN THE PARTICIPANT IS FULLY INVOLVED IN ITS EVERY MEANING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL THE LITURGICAL AND RITUALISTIC ACTS WE PERFORM IN WORSHIP--FOR THIS SACRAMENT CONTAINS THE VERY ESSENCE OF CHRISTIANITY. THE TRUE PARTICIPANT REMEMBERS THE ENTIRE STORY OF CHRIST AND BECOMES PERSONALLY INVOLVED, THE ETERNAL LOVE THAT WAS THE REASON FOR HIS COMING, HIS TEACHINGS AND

HEALINGS, HIS DISSAPOINTMENTS AND AGONIES, THE EXTREME SACRIFICE THAT WAS HIS CRUCIFIXION AND THE GLORY THAT WAS HIS ~~REEHREX~~ RESURRECTION AND VICTORY OVER EVIL: HIS CONCERN FOR HIS FELLOWS, FOR ALL HUMANITY FOR YOU AND ME—THIS IS WHAT IS INVOLVED IN PARTICIPATING IN THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION.

TODAY, SUNDAY OCT. 2 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS WORLD WIDE COMMUNION SUNDAY. THROUGHOUT OUR NATION AND IN MANY PLACES ALL OVER THE WORLD CHRISTIANS ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS SACRED ACT. THIS FACT ADDS TO THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT WE ARE HERE DOING—FOR IN THIS SYMBOLIC ACT CHRISTIANS DO SEEM UNIFIED FOR ONCE THE CHURCH DOES SEEM TO BE ONE. THE SPIRIT OF W.W. COMMUNION IS BEST TYPIFIED IN A PRAYER OF JESUS, RECORDED IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN, OUR SCRIPTURE READING THIS MORNING. THIS PRAYER OCCURS AT THE END OF THE FINAL MEETING OF JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES immediately before his arrest and trial AND ITS SIMPLE BEAUTY IS SUCH THAT DEEM IT APPROPRIATE OF CONSIDERATION AT THIS TIME.

OUR PRAYERS AT TIMES ARE GLOOMY AND SAD, WE COMPLAIN, WE ASK WHY WE HAVEN'T RECEIVED MORE, WE ASK SATISFACTION FOR OUR SINFUL GREED BUT IN THE FACE OF TRAGEDY, IN DESPARATE DREAD THAT CAST ITS GLOOM ON THE LAST MEETING JESUS FOUND NO ROOM FOR ANY OF THIS. HIS PRAYER RATHER WAS ONE OF THANKFULNESS, SELFISHNESS AND ABOVE ALL CONCERN FOR HIS DISCIPLES AND CHRISTIANS OF ALL TIMES. JUST AS THE BIRDS SEEM TO POUR OUT THEIR VERY SOULS AT THE END OF DAY, JUST AS NATURE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL PERIOD OCCURS AT THE END OF SUMMER WHEN DEATH AND STILLNESS ARE NOT FAR—SO JESUS POURED OUT HIS

HIS SOUL TO GOD IN HEAVEN IN THE FACE OF CERTAIN DEATH. THROUGHOUT HIS PRAYER HE DISPLAYS ADORATION AND THANKFULNESS THAT HE IS ABLE TO OFFER HIMSELF AS A SACRIFICE--AS HE SAID HIMSELF "NO MAN TAKES MY LIFE FROM ME, BUT I LAY IT DOWN OF MYSELF, HE WAS NO UNWILLING VICTIM, HE HELD BACK NOTHING, HE GAVE HIMSELF UNCONDITIONALLY.

A LARGE PORTION OF JESUS' PRAYER IS INVOLVED IN A PETITION FOR HIS DISCIPLES. REALIZING FULLY WELL THAT THEY WERE ALL ON THE VERGE OF DESERTING HIM, THAT THEIR DOUBTS HAD BEEN ENLARGED BY THE APPARENT DEFEAT OF THE ONE THEY CALLEDLORD--HE NONETHELESS EXPRESSES UMISTAKABLE PRIDE IN THEM "I AM GLORIFIED IN THEM" HE SAYS ALTHOUGH TO US THEY SEEM LIKE BUNGLERS AND COWARDS--HE WAS PROUD OF THEM AND EVEN MORE THANKFUL FOR THEM. ALL THROUGH THE PRAYER HE TAHNKS GOD FOR "THOSE WHOM THOU HAST GIVEN ME." PONDER THE SITUATION FOR A MOMENT, JESUS CHRIST, THE LAMB OF GOD, THE WORD MADE FLESH--THANKFUL FOR A GROUP OF MEN LIKE YOU AND I, SLOW TO ACT, HESITANT TO BELIEVE, SOME LAZY, SOME OVER ENTHUSIASTIC AND LIKE YOU AND I SO VERY, VERY SINFUL. PERHAPS HERE WE CAN SEE THAT LOVE THAT FILLED HIS SOUL, THAT DIVINE FORCE THAT COMPELLED HIM TO GIVE HISLIFE THAT WE MIGHT UNDERSTAND. PERHAPS IN JESUS CHRIST'S PRIDE IN A GROUP OF SHODDY FISHERMEN WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE UNITY AND LOVE HE EXPECTS OF US.

IN HIS PRAYER HE HEAVILY EMPHASIZES UNITY, HE ASKS GOD TO GUARD THEM AGAINST DISUNITY AND FALLING// APART, KEEP THEM THAT THEY MIGHT BE ONE IN HEART, MIND AND

AND PURPOSE. THAT THEY MAY BE ONE--HE PARYS. Jesus SAW THE BOND BETWEEN BELIEVERS TO BE SO CLOSE THAT HE COMPARED THEIR ONENESS WITH HIS UNITY WITH THE FATHER--AND WHAT HAVE WE DONE, STARTING IN THE BOOK OF ACTS AND FOLLOWING DOWN THROUGH THE CENTURIES CHRISTIAN MEN HAVE CONSISTANTLY DISTINTEGRATED INTO A MOB OF ANGRY, SNARLING, SECTS, CONDEMNING ONE ANOTHER, OPPOSING ONE ANOTHER--EXCOMMUNICATING ONE ANOTHER. THERE WAS TROUBLE BETWEEN THE FOLLOWERS OF PAUL AND THOSE OF PETER--EVEN AS CHRISTIAN MEN TODAY HAVE CREATED SEEMINGLY UNBRIDGEABLE GAPS BETWEEN THEIR SPECIFIC DENOMINATIONS.

LOOKING BACK NOW WE CAN SEE HOW WISE JESUS, WAS FOR PRAYING "HOLD THEM TOGETHER, HELP THEM TO PRESERVE THEIR UNITY" IT IS A CONSOLING THOUGHT THAT FOR US TOO HE WAS PRAYING "HOLD THEM TOGETHER"--BUT AT THE SAME TIME A BIT DISTRUBING.

THIS MORNING AS WE PARTAKE OF THE ELEMENTS OF HOLY COMMUNION TOGETHER, LET US NOT FAIL TO REMEMBER THAT JESUS CHRIST INTENDED BELIEVERS TO BE ONE--AS HE WAS ONE WITH THE FATHER: AND LET THIS CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT BE CHARACTERIZED BY HEART FELT UNITY--COMMUNION WITH CHRISTIAN BROTHERS EVERYWHERE.

Let us nt. Fail to realize his pride & love
For disciples & us - & let this celebrat. be charact
by that same love & pride for Xt. brothers
everywhere